



The Burlington Police Department ERV





Concept



In January 2016, then-Chief of Police Brandon del Pozo attended a summit hosted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) about the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) program. The principals of ICAT training and local incidents with barricaded subjects identified a need for additional equipment.

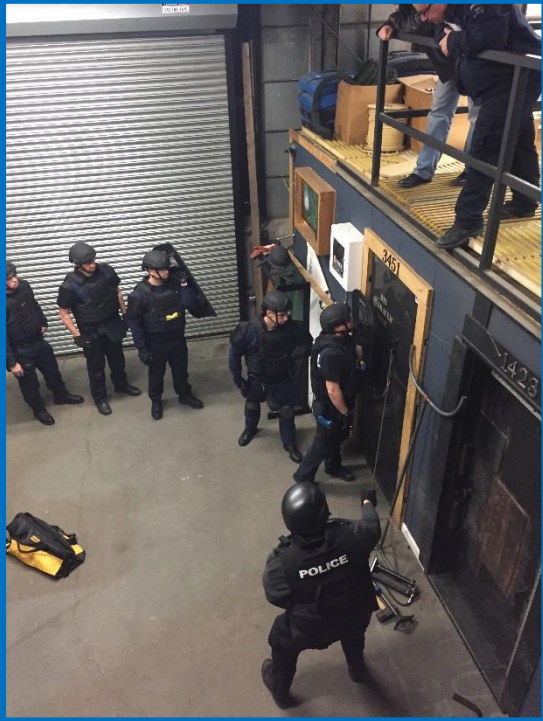
Later that year, then-Sergeants James Trieb and Wade Labrecque worked with the NYPD's Emergency Service Unit (ESU) to assess their training and equipment. The BPD team went to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn to see how ESU trains, specifically when handling people in emotional distress or behavioral crisis.

The BPD developed a training program and vehicle platform based on the NYPD's ESU model, which is more rescue-based than SWAT programs. Sergeants Wade Labrecque and Justin Couture researched equipment and designed the BPD's Emergency Response Vehicle truck with input from officers, including those with appropriate tactical experience.





Initial Training



Initial training included BPD-wide familiarization on all the ERV's equipment and techniques, both new and old. Among the equipment were power tools and less-lethal tools; among the techniques were Y-bar retention and enhanced emphasis on ballistic and acrylic shield use. All of it was devoted to the goal of deceleration, or *SLOWING THINGS DOWN*, which is a cornerstone of PERF's ICAT program.

ERV team training was scenario-based training geared toward problem solving rather than dynamic action. It was conducted with mission-specific goals and equipment, and was designed to build skills and confidence, while continually focusing on “**distance + cover = time.**”

Part of the regimen included driver training. BPD received assistance from the Burlington Fire Department on large-rig operation. The robust training became a point of pride among ERV-qualified officers, and obtained additional buy-in from other BPD officers.





Purchasing / Outfitting

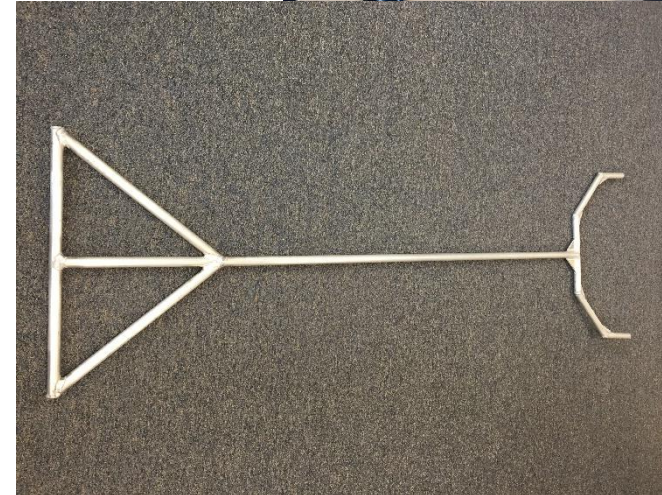


As BPD outfitted the ERV, some equipment choices were driven by the team's ESU visit, while others were influenced by pre-existing needs within the BPD, identified during previous incidents.

Outfitting was significantly affected by feedback from officers who used the ERV, as well as subject-matter experts.

ERV officers were tasked with researching the best choices for equipment, including tools such as Halligans and flat axes, ladders, and a variety of power tools. The BPD also procured a device called an Ogura Rescue Tool.

The team leveraged local relationships, too, and **worked with students in a Burlington Technical Center (BTC) metal fabrication class** to make a Y-bar prototype for restraining people safely from a distance.





Deployment



Establish goal of ERV with command staff

- The ERV had to work within the existing patrol structure with potential for program growth in the future.

Obtain feedback from assigned officers

- Officers had input on what deployment would look like, which created buy-in and excitement about the program.
- Officers have strong input on moving the program forward and regularly provide suggestions on how to improve and grow the concept.

Get the word out to other agencies

- UVM PD attended portions of initial training for familiarization.
- SBPD was trained in some aspects of truck deployment to build a Patrol Procedures Program at their agency.
- BPD showed the ERV at a CCLEE meeting to foster a conversation about mutual aid and enhancing the effectiveness of out-of-Burlington deployments.
- In 2019, BPD and SBPD provided ICAT training to surrounding agencies.







Equipment

Acrylic Shields

Axe/Halligan Set

Ballistic Shields

Barracuda (door jam)

Batteries

Binoculars

Bolt Cutters

Bullhorn

Chain

Cones

Command Board

Crime Scene Tape

Drill

Fire Extinguisher

Flash Light

Grinder

Halligan

Headsets

Helmets

Jack

Jumper Cables

Ladder

LLIM Shotgun

Ogura Breaching Tool

Pepperball gun

Plate Carrier

Pole Camera

Ram

Rope

Sawsall

Search Light

Shotgun

Sledge

Tactical Blanket

Throw Phone

Throw Phone Cable

Tool Box

Tow Strap

Water Cannon

Wedges

Wheel Chock

Winch Controller

25' Extension Cord

37mm Launcher

40mm Launcher



Momentum



- Creation of an ERO (Emergency Response Officer) role, tasked with upkeep and best practices
- Recurring and frequent training to maintain proficiency and officer engagement.
- Growing the ERV program into other areas of our mission to enhance officer and public safety.
- Selection process for officers on ERV team

